

Vafiadis goal is decisive

By MIKE WHITESMAN:

Wycombe W. O, Hillingdon B. 1

WITH the Section A title already in the bag, and Wednesday night's vital Isthmian League match with Barking in view, Wycombe Wanderers borrowed six apprentices from Jack Mansell's 'stables' at Reading for Monday's Premier Floodlight League clash with Hillingdon Borough at Loakes Park.

The final result, as the match could not affect matters at the top, bore no real significance.

It also bored the smallish crowd which saw a goal by ex-Guildford City winger, Seth Vafiadis, clinch a "double" for the Southern Leaguers after just seven minutes' play.

Earlier in the season, Borough had scored the only goal in a far more competitive affair.

Not until Monday's second half did the alias called Wanderers show any sign of teamwork or thought. And then it was prompted by the best display by Geoff Anthony since his purple patch, the passing of which has been mourned for several months.

Of the Reading contingent, centre-forward Mick Jones shone as brightly as any, eclipsed only infrequently by sudden flashes from Malcolm Swain, or number six, Butler, who lays claim to a Third Division appearance in 1970.

Otherwise, Mansell has a lot of work ahead of him before he can call upon his youngsters for any first team duties, if this showing is anything to go by.

Hillingdon, led by the ever laudable Jim Langley, fielded a side not far off the one that had upended Luton's F.A. Cup hopes so sensationally.

Wingers Mick Fairchild and Vafiadis weren't used to full potential, however, and gangling spearhead Gary Townend remained his enigmatic self.

As safe as ever though was Mick Lowe, the Australian many consider worth Football League rating in any division. He did particular well to cut out efforts from Jones, while also body blocking a "cert" from Anthony.

Wycombe's own Kevin O'Brien, also had his chance to come good, preventing at least two possible scoring efforts from the dangerous Fairchild.

WYCOMBE: O'Brien; Thomas (sub. Rundle), Flanagan; Stephenson, Faulkner, Butler; Anthony, Swain, Jones, Rogers, Williams.

HILLINGDON: Lowe; Batt, Langley; Watson, Moore, Reeve; Fairchild, Carter, Townend, Bishop, Vafiadis (sub. Cozens).